



DOWNTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**We Live Into Jesus' Inclusive Call
to Love Every Person,
Care for Creation,
and Work for God's Justice.**



Celebration of Worship
September 21st, 2025, 11:00 AM
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Click Here to Watch](#)

*If you have a joy or concern you would like to have lifted in prayer today, please complete a **Prayer Request Card**, including the name of the person (and pronunciation) or event, and additional information you'd like to share.*

*Prayer Requests will be collected during the **hymn following the sermon** to share with the pastor and/or Deacons.*

Prelude

Music of Our Breath

Words of Welcome

Lee Wright

Announcements

Nancy Brown

Chime

Introit

Take What You Need

Reena Esmail

"Take a moment. Take a breath. Take time. Take care.

Take heart. Take hope. Take a step. Take a chance.

Take courage. Take charge. Take a stand. Take pride.

Take joy. Take pause.

Take a moment. Take a breath. Take what you need.

Take what you need. Take what you need. Take what you need."

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 113, interpreted by Nan C. Merrill)

One: Sing praises to the Beloved of all hearts!

Many: **Sing praises, all you who would honor Love, the Architect of the universe!**

One: Yes, those who call upon the Merciful One, are lifted up and blessed with new life;

Many: **They wear a crown of joy, as they recognize their Oneness with Spirit.**

One: Come, all who suffer and are heavy-laden,

Many: Let us open our hearts to Love!

*Hymn

Take My Life

HENDON

(Verses 1, 2 and 4—Music may be found on page 7.)

Time With Young Disciples

Robin Sheikh

Prayer for Transformation

(sung refrain in alternatum with verses of Psalm 79 as interpreted by Nan C. Merrill)

**"Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me."**

Assurance of Grace

One: Then we your people, those who would companion with You, will
give thanks to You forever;

Many: From generation to generation we will abandon ourselves into your
hands with grace-filled, open hearts.

First Reading

Amos 8:4-8

Music for Reflection

All Things New

Elaine Hagenberg

*"Light after darkness, gain after loss,
Strength after weakness, crown after cross;
Sweet after bitter, hope after fears,
Home after wandering, praise after tears.*

*Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end,
He is making all things new.
Springs of living water shall wash away each tear,
He is making all things new.*

*Sight after mystery, sun after rain,
Joy after sorrow, peace after pain;
Near after distant, gleam after gloom,
Love after loneliness, life after tomb."*

Text: Frances Havergal

Second Reading

Luke 16:1-13

Meditation

"Creative Survival"

Lee Wright

*Hymn

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
(Music may be found on page 8.)

I'M GONNA LIVE

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Healing and Justice

† Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Spirit come!
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead
us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Spirit,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music

The Weaver

Jacob Narverud

*"The weaver sets the loom to frame
A blanket designed without a name.
Of colors too rife to call by tone or hue,
Showing the world in shades of brown and blue.*

*The skeins of yarn lie in the room
On chairs and floor around the loom.
The weaver loves their colors and their touch
And marvels they in silence, say so much.*

*The cloth that shelters old and young
Is all from this same magic spun.
Their strength is in their closeness, drawn.
By loom and hand, each yarn is strong.*

*Draw the strands together, tight.
Bold colors glowing in the light.
The threads that make the fabric warm
Will keep this family safe from harm.*

Text: Bryan Welch

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Let songs rise up from earth below;
Let stars and galaxies enthrone;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One! Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Holy Weaver of Life, you take the threads we bring—our gifts,
our voices, our prayers, our lives— and you weave them into
a fabric of compassion and strength. Bless these offerings,
that they may shelter the vulnerable, mend what is torn, and
proclaim your justice. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

*Hymn

We Walk in Love
(Music may be found on page 9.)

Deanna Witkowski

*Benediction (sung responsively)

from the Louisville Presbyterian Theological
Seminary Baccalaureate 1995

Because the world is poor and starving, **go with bread.**
Because the world is filled with fears, **go with courage.**
Because the world is in despair, **go with hope.**
Because the world is living lies, **go with the truth.**
Because the world is sick with sorrow, **go with joy.**
Because the world is weary of wars, **go with peace.**
Because the world is seldom fair, **go with justice.**
Because the world is under judgment, **go with mercy.**
Because the world will die without it, **go with love.**

Postlude

Allegro Assai Vivace
from Sonata I for Organ

Felix Mendelssohn

*Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.
Let us extend the Peace of Christ to one another.

Thank you to...

Worship Leader: Lee Wright, Director of Music Ministry

Liturgist: Nancy Brown

The All-Community Choir with
Chancel Choir Members

Soprano: Isabella Apodaca, Nicole Knickerbocker, Joan Sussman

Alto: Lindsey Puc, Liyao Yu

Tenor: Olivia Anderson, Jason Cloen, Shawn Cox, Mark Darling

Bass: Rob Brown, John DeHority, Elijah Gebers,
Alan Jones, Stephen Lloyd

Live Stream Team: Don Fairman, David McDowell, Jim Parks, Sally Allison

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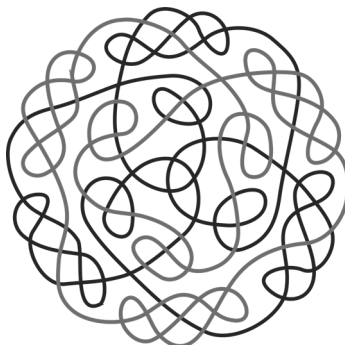
We continue to welcome a wide variety of worship leaders. The Worship Team and the Session encourage you to consider what speaks to you in each worship experience and share your feedback with them.

You may write to: session@downtownpresbyterian.org

OR worship@downtownpresbyterian.org

This feedback is vital as decisions are made about our pastoral leadership.

Next Sunday we welcome the Rev. Peggy Meeker.



Take My Life

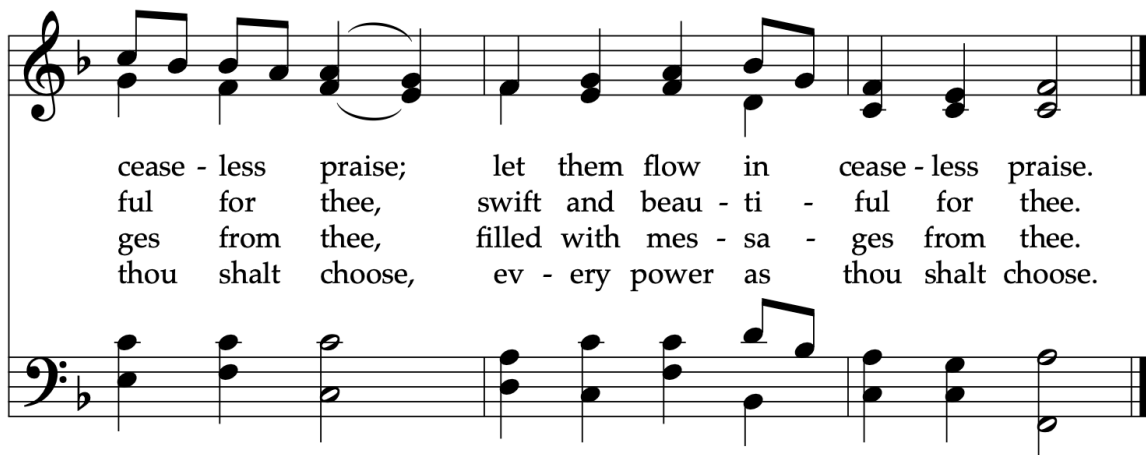
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1 Take my life and let it be con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al-ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with-hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa -
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - ery power as



cease - less praise; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 ges from thee, filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.
 thou shalt choose, ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne,
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee,
 ever, only, all for thee.

This hymn of consecration radiates from the repeated word "take," resulting in a remarkably full survey of a person's attributes and possessions and giving weight to the "all" at the end. The composer of the tune was influential in the renewal of Reformed hymnody in French.

700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so)
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y -

where, Lord, an - y - time! (an - y - time!)
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na

live so (live so)
 work so (work so)
 pray so (pray so)
 sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y -

where, Lord, (my Lord,) an - y - time! (an - y - time!)

This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.

TEXT: African American spiritual

MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Wendell P. Whalum, 1984

Music Arr. © Estate of Wendell P. Whalum

I'M GONNA LIVE

Irregular

38. We Walk in Love

Words by Deanna Witkowski and Lemuel Colon

Music by Deanna Witkowski

New York, NY | 2017

Gospel 3 feel (♩ = 104)

C7sus F Gm/F F Gm7

1. We walk in love u - nit - ed in pur - pose. We
2. We cry for peace and rights for all peo - ple. We
3. We dream a world of jus - tice and kind - ness. We

A7 Dm7 G7sus G7 C7sus

join our hands and lift up one voice. We
wel - come friends from far - and near. We
build a bridge cre - at - ing new paths. We

Bm7(b5) Bbm6 F/C F

speak the truth with strength and com - pas - sion re -
fight for those whose voic - es are si - lenced, re -
march with joy as all walk to - geth - er. Em -

Gm F/A Gm/Bb F/C C7sus C7 F

sound - ing with hope, with cour - age and joy.
sist - ing in faith, un - til all are free.
brac - ing each one, we bold - ly stand.

Performance Suggestion:

- Step on beat 1, Clap beats 2 & 3.

Deanna writes: "After writing the tune, I looked at 'Lift Every Voice and Sing' as a starting point in creating a list of positive key words to include in the lyrics."

Editor's note: Optional piano part available at deannawitkowski.com.

Always include songwriter's name when posting recordings. Link to PDF: <https://songs.justicechoir.org/WeWalk>

creative commons



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JUSTICE CHOIR.ORG

Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 21

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid
10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship, Lee Wright
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Refreshments-Sanctuary
7:00PM Sophia Circle via Zoom

Monday, September 22

First Day of Fall

Tuesday, September 23

10:30AM Psalms+ Bible Study

Wednesday, September 24

7:00PM Choir Practice

Friday, September 26

3:00PM Space Use Mtg, Zoom

Sunday, September 28

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid
10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship, Rev. Peg
Meeker
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Refreshments-Sanctuary



JOIN

US!

Irondequoit Presbyterian Church is having a Service of Dissolution and celebration of their long ministry on September 28 at 4 PM. Rev. Val Fowler will attend. Downtown United Presbyterian Church members are encouraged to attend this service and to pray for this congregation.

We live into Jesus' inclusive call to love all people,
care for creation, and work for God's Justice.

Welcome Visitors!

Nursery Care is available for young children beginning in the library and moving to C-23 on the second floor. Parents are welcome to come up with their kids if they would like.

Sunday School Children not in nursery care will be invited forward during the "Time with Our Youth" and then will follow their teacher to the Sunday School room.

You may place your offering in the offering plates as they are passed. If you would like to donate online, you can use the QR code to the right to make your contribution to the church.



† **We seek** to use diverse images and liberating language about divine presence in our services of worship. Please feel free to adapt the words in hymns and prayers as needed so that they express your faith.

This is a Hearing Loop equipped sanctuary – please switch your hearing aid to the "T" (telephone) position.

*** An asterisk indicates** "please rise in body or spirit."

We hope you will join us after worship for conversations and refreshments! Cookies and drinks are available in the front of the sanctuary.

Joys and Concerns – If you have a joy or concern that you would like to lift in prayer today, please complete a Prayer Request card (available by the worship bulletins) naming the person (s), situation or event, and any other information that you would like to be shared. The requests will be collected during the hymn following the sermon and provided to the Deacons.

The Downtown Church Staff

Cheryl Bittle, Weekend Receptionist	Robin Sheikh, Office Administrator & Sunday School Teacher
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician	
Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations	Ebony Smalls, Evening Receptionist
Alan Jones, Associate Musician	Michael Stagles, Maintenance Lead
David Mear, Business Manager	Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor
Moses Nhial, Maintenance	Ed Verna, Maintenance
Penelope Paredes, Nursery Coordinator	Lee S. Wright, D.M.A., Director of Music Ministry
Andrea Piccone, Bookkeeper & Receptionist Coordinator	

Parish Leaders

Mary Rees and Pat Tweet - Clerks of Session
Cindy Hamilton, Jacque Hancock - co-Moderators of Deacons

Session

The Rev. Val Fowler, Moderator	Lea Kone	Jim Vesper
Nancy Brown	Bob Richane	Pat Tweet
John DeHority	Sally Allison	Mary Rees
	Sam King	

Deacons

Bob Carlisle	Jacque Hancock	Becky Parks
Andrea Folan	Elizabeth Katz	Susan Richane
Helen Ganotis	Stephen Lloyd	Kelley Sheils
Cindy Hamilton	Grania Marcus	Marilyn Terpening
	Sandy Morales	

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